

Gerd Clabaugh Director, Iowa Department of Public Health

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Goodbyes and Hellos

As you may be aware, there have been many changes at IDPH over the last several months. When Director Mariannette Miller-Meeks resigned early this year, I took on responsibilities as Interim Director of the department. I want to thank Dr. Miller-Meeks for her service to the state and the public health community during her years as director of IDPH.

Today, I am honored to announce Governor Terry Branstad has appointed me Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as director, and committed to continuing IDPH's mission to promote and protect the health of all Iowans. I am looking forward to working with the Governor, state legislators, local public health agencies and public health leaders to advance a public health structure capable of adaptation and change in these times which require both.

For those of you I have not yet met, let me offer a brief introduction. I have served in various capacities within both non-profit and state government organizations, including the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC); chief employee benefits manager for the State of Iowa; and health policy director at IDPH, where, in the mid-1990's, I was appointed by Governor Branstad as project director for a Robert Wood Johnson-funded initiative to study and implement healthcare reform in Iowa.

I am proud to have served as past-president and past-legislative chair of the Iowa Public Health Association, and as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Iowa, Montana State University-Billings, Des Moines University, and Iowa State University.

I look forward to working with all of you and welcome your questions and suggestions.

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To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!

— Gerd